

EdReach Newsletter - Week of October 12, 2007

### Educators Win National Honor

Two South Carolina educators – a middle school math teacher and a high school choral director have won the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and its accompanying financial prize of \$25,000. To read more, visit:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=847>

### Two districts receive electric/diesel hybrid school buses

South Carolina has received two hybrid school buses, putting the state among the nation's leaders in efforts to curb diesel exhaust and soot levels that can pose risks to children's health. To read more, visit:  
<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=848>

### Message from Jim Rex

Dear Friends,

Author Thomas Cahill has an interesting take on the meaning of history. Acknowledging that we usually think of history as "one catastrophe after another," he adds that history is also a narrative of grace. It chronicles the "great gift givers" who arrive "in the moment of crisis" and leave the world "more varied and complex, more awesome and delightful" than the one they found. As we work to elevate and reinvigorate South Carolina's teaching force, this passage provides great clarity.

South Carolina's educators are, in fact, our great gift givers, and teacher quality is critical in moving our education history forward. The progress that we are seeing is encouraging. For example, our state is the recipient - through the South Carolina Teacher Advancement program (SCTAP) - of the largest federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant in the country. This grant allows the South Carolina Department of Education to partner with school districts to recruit and maintain highly qualified teachers in schools that are hard to staff. There is more good news. At the end of the 2006-07 school year, 96 percent of core academic classes were being taught by teachers who met No Child Left Behind highly qualified requirements. That is more than a 5 percent increase from 2005-06. We also have 5,077 National Board Certified teachers - the third highest ranking in the United States.

I'm pleased to report that my agency is continuing its efforts to serve all of our educators. The certification office, charged with monitoring all aspects of teacher certification, has cut its response time from 13 weeks to just one week. In addition, we are working with college and university education deans statewide to increase the number of certified middle school and special education teachers through programs such as ML-TEACH and Project CREATE. Career-changers are embracing the Program of Alternative

Certification for Educators (PACE) in growing numbers with more than 1,300 current participants. And our redesigned ADEPT Web page features new sections and links, giving educators faster access to more information.

As we continue to recognize and celebrate South Carolina educators, it is clear to me that Jacques Barzun is correct: "Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it has lost tradition." Together, we can change that perception. Our children deserve a bright, strong future, and our great gift givers deserve an honorable place in South Carolina's history.

Today, I salute South Carolina's teaching force.

Sincerely,

Jim Rex  
State Superintendent of Education

To view the redesigned ADEPT web page, visit:  
<http://www.scteachers.org/Adept/index.cfm>

Rex on The Road:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/superintendent/Rex-on-The-Road-Schedule.html>

In The News:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/>

On The Air:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/On-The-Air.html>

Dates to Remember:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Dates-to-Remember.html>

Resources for Teachers:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Resources-for-Teachers.html>

Resources for Students:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Resources-for-Students.html>

Resources for Administrators:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Resources-for-School-Administrators.html>

What Others Are Saying:  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Education-RelatedEditorialOpinion.html>

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